

## Two new parrots from the Philippines

by Kenneth C. Parkes

Received 18th May, 1971

Study of collections of birds from the Philippine islands of Leyte and Luzon, received in recent years by the American Museum of Natural History and kindly made available to me by Dr. Dean Amadon, has revealed the existence of several subspecies hitherto unnoticed because of inadequate material. Two of these, both members of the Psittacidae, are described below.

The endemic Philippine genus *Bolbopsittacus* contains a single species, the Guaiabero, *B. lunulatus*. Three subspecies are currently recognized: *B. l. lunulatus* (Scopoli) of Luzon, *B. l. intermedius* Salvadori of Samar and Leyte, and *B. l. mindanensis* (Steere) of Mindanao. Salvadori (1891) described *intermedius* from a single male specimen of unknown origin from the Cuming collection in the British Museum (Natural History). Hachisuka (1934: 91) gave the type locality of *intermedius* as Samar (without explanation), and his designation was accepted by Peters (1937: 253). Such a restriction would be appropriate if the birds of Samar and Leyte were identical, but comparison of specimens from these two islands reveals a subspecific difference. Under these circumstances, the type locality of *intermedius* must be determined by the characteristics of the type specimen rather than by an arbitrary designation. I therefore sent a Leyte and a Samar specimen to the British Museum for comparison with the type. Mr. I. C. J. Galbraith (letter of 31st October 1962) wrote as follows: "Mr. Derek Goodwin has compared the type of *Bolbopsittacus intermedius* Salvadori with the two specimens you sent. There seems no doubt that it belongs to the Leyte form since it agreed with AMNH 768237 in all the points you mention. It is a good match with this specimen and some . . . slight differences are probably due to mild foxing of the type".

The type locality of *intermedius* is therefore corrected to Leyte, and the Samar bird requires a name. It may be called:

*Bolbopsittacus lunulatus callainipictus*, subsp. nov.

Type: American Museum of Natural History no. 622077, adult male, collected at Bonga, Samar, Philippine Islands, 13th July 1896, by J. Whitehead.

*Characters*: Nearest *B. l. intermedius* of Leyte, but males differ in having the face and nuchal band of a less pure and deep blue, more greenish blue; the blue area of the cheeks is also less extensive. The rectrices, especially the central pair, are greener, less blue, and the general body colour, especially of the underparts, is a more yellowish green. In females the tail colour difference is less obvious but the difference in general body colour is apparent; in addition, the yellow of the nuchal collar of Samar females is richer, as is the yellow ground colour of the rump area. These colour differences represent a trend in the direction of *B. l. lunulatus* of Luzon, in which the face and nuchal band are paler and very much greener blue, and the rectrices virtually lack any blue. This is just what would be expected on the basis of geography, as Samar lies between Luzon and Leyte. The three subspecies *lunulatus*, *callainipictus*, and *intermedius* may be thought of as representing a stepped cline, but each is worthy of its own name, as the island samples are quite consistent in their characters, and, further, there is no apparent geographic variation within the large island of Luzon. The Mindanao subspecies *mindanensis* differs strikingly in the reduction of the blue areas of the head, the entire cheek area being green rather than blue.

*Range:* The island of Samar, Philippines. The Guaiabero has not yet been reported from the island of Bohol, which generally resembles Samar and Leyte in its avifauna.

*Etymology:* From Latin *callainus*, turquoise-coloured or greenish-blue, and *pictus*, painted.

*Specimens examined:* *B. l. intermedius*, Leyte, 10; *B. l. callainipictus*, Samar, 8. Also series of *B. l. lunulatus* from Luzon and *B. l. mindanensis* from Mindanao.

Two species of the parrot genus *Tanygnathus* are widely distributed in the Philippine archipelago. The larger and less common, the Blue-backed Parrot, was formerly known as *T. mulleri* (for example, in Peters 1937), but Stresemann (1938) showed that the earlier name *Psittacus sumatranus* Raffles applied to this species. Peters admitted three races in the Philippines: *everetti* Tweeddale (type locality Butuan, Mindanao), *freeri* McGregor (Polillo Island), and *burbidgei* Sharpe (Sulu Islands). Delacour & Mayr (1946: 101) recognized only *everetti* and "*burbidgei*" [*sic*], presumably synonymizing *freeri* with *everetti*, although stating that the latter "has been found so far on Luzon, Negros, Panay, and Mindoro", thus omitting Polillo, type locality of *freeri*. I know of no Polillo specimens of this species in museums in the United States. The original specimens of *freeri* were lost when the National Museum of the Philippines was burned during World War II, but a field party from that museum has subsequently visited Polillo and collected *Tanygnathus sumatranus*: Manuel (1957: 318) has designated a specimen collected in 1948 as a neotype. (Without having seen specimens, I can say of *freeri* only that its description indicates that it is distinctive in colour and even more so in size. Hachisuka (1934: 88) gives the measurements of *everetti* as wing 195–196, tail 136–138 (sexes not specified), while for *freeri* his measurements (taken from McGregor's original description) are: male, wing 235, tail 170; female, wing 230, tail 165 mm. In an earlier paper, Hachisuka (1930: 161) stated of *freeri*: "Much bigger and much yellower throughout especially noticeable round the neck when compared with typical *everetti*. This parrot is one of the many fine novelties found by McGregor from Polillo . . .". This wording suggests that Hachisuka had personally examined specimens. Until evidence to the contrary is presented, I believe that *freeri* should be recognized.

Turning now to *everetti*, I find that Rand & Rabor (1960: 384), who added Samar to the known range of the species, were undoubtedly correct in their conjecture that the differences in colour they described among their two Samar and three Negros females (they found no differences among their males) were attributable to differential wear. The American Museum of Natural History has recently received a specimen of this species from Barrio Patok, Dagami, Leyte (taken on 21st July 1961), thus adding that island to the species' known range. In comparing this specimen with two from Mindanao, two from Negros, and three from Samar, it is obvious that there are no significant differences, and all may be called *everetti*. Four Luzon specimens, however, when compared with these *everetti*, are clearly separable. The Luzon population may be known as:

*Tanygnathus sumatranus duponti*, subsp. nov.

*Type:* American Museum of Natural History no. 767692, adult male, collected at Barrio Disulap, San Mariano, Isabela Province, Luzon, Philippine Islands, 25th May 1961, by G. Alcasid *et al.* (collectors' no. 579).

*Characters:* Nearest *everetti* but with blue of lower back (and edgings of upper back, before these have worn away) lighter, purer blue (less deep

purplish blue), and with under wing coverts decidedly yellowish rather than green. The differences in tone of blue are consistent even in worn individuals, and the colours of the under wing coverts are not normally subject to change through wear.

*Range:* Island of Luzon, Philippines.

*Etymology:* This new subspecies is named for Mr. John E. duPont, Director of the Delaware Museum of Natural History, in recognition of his contributions to our knowledge of Philippine birds.

*Acknowledgments:* Travel to New York to study collections of Philippine birds at the American Museum of Natural History was made possible through a grant from the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund of that institution. Specimens of both of these parrot species were examined in the Delaware Museum of Natural History through the courtesy of Mr. du Pont, after this study had been essentially completed in New York; these specimens are not included in the lists above. I am grateful to Mr. Galbraith and Mr. Goodwin of the Bird Room, British Museum (Natural History) for comparing specimens with the type of *Bolbopsittacus intermedius*.

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## A new subspecies of *Pitta* from the Philippines

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Received 18th May, 1971

One of the handsomest in a family of generally handsome birds is *Pitta steerii*, an endemic Philippine species. Its head and nape are black; throat white; breast, flanks, rump, and a large patch on the wing coverts delicate blue; primaries, tail and abdomen black; crissum scarlet; back and inner secondaries green, the latter with deep blue edgings. According to current literature, the species is known only from the islands of Mindanao, Bohol, and Samar. The avifauna of the latter two islands is closely related to that of Leyte, which in fact lies between Bohol and Samar, so the presence on Leyte of Steere's *Pitta* was to be anticipated. This expectation was realized when the American Museum of Natural History, New York, received a specimen collected by G. L. Alcasid on 28th July 1961 at Barrio Patok, Dagami, Leyte. Study of this specimen together with the limited series from Samar and Mindanao in New York (the species is rather rare in collections) suggested the possibility of previously unnoticed geographic variation in *Pitta steerii*. Examination of material in additional museums confirmed the existence of two recognizable subspecies. Their distribution conforms with a well-known pattern in Philippine zoogeography, in that the Mindanao population differs